

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151851

FOLL REPEAT BAGHDAD 663 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI BEIRUT
CAIRO DAMASCUS DOHA JIDDA KUWAIT MANAMA MUSCAT SANAA TEHRAN
TEL AVIV 21 JUN 75 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: IRAQI POLICY IN THE GULF

1. SUMMARY: INFORMATION ON IRAQ'S NEW POLICY IN THE GULF IN WAKE OF
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA IS STILL HARD TO COME BY.
WHAT APPEARS TO BE EMERGING IS NOT ADVOCACY OF SECURITY PACT OR
OTHER FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS, BUT RATHER DESIRE FOR GOOD
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALL LITTORAL STATES AND AN INFORMAL
AGREEMENT WITH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA THAT INSURES IRAQ'S
VITAL INTERESTS, NOTABLY ASSURED PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS OF
HORMUZ. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST RELIABLE INFORMATION I HAVE DEVELOPED COMES FROM
BRITISH AMBASSADOR GRAHAM WHO DISCUSSED SUBJECT RECENTLY WITH
MFA U/S JAMALI. JAMALI SAID FLATLY THAT IRAQ NOT INTERESTED
IN FORMAL SECURITY PACT, BUT WISHED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT WITH
IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA ON FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO GULF. JAMALI
INDICATED IRAQ WOULD AGREE TO PASSAGE OF FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS
ON ROUTINE SHIP VISITS BUT NOT PASSAGE FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES.
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GRAHAM SAID IRAQI POSITION COULD PRESUMABLY CAUSE PROBLEM FOR
U.S. NAVAL UNITS STATIONED IN BAHRAIN. HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT
IT MIGHT BE IN U.S. AND WESTERN INTERESTS IN GULF EVENTUALLY
TO GIVE UP BAHRAIN BASE.

3. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AL-NAGGAR, COMMENTING ON RECENT VISIT OF PRINCE FAHD, WHICH HE SAID WENT EXTREMELY WELL, TOLD ME HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SHAH HAD TOLD BOTH SAUDIS AND IRAQIS THAT IRAN WOULD WELCOME ARAB LITTORAL STATES ADOPTING A COMMON POSITION ON THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE GULF AND THEN IFAN AND ARAB STATES COULD COOPERATE TOGETHER. SHAH REPORTTEJLY SAID RAN HAD NO INTEREST IN DIVIDING GULF STATES OR HAVING SPECIAL POSITION IN CERTAIN OF THEM.

4. PRESIDENT AL-BAKR SENT SPECIAL ENVOY MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HISHAN ASH-SHAWI TO UAE, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN AND QATAR JUNE 17/18, PRESUMABLY AS PART OF GOI POLICY OF WINNING THEIR CONFIDENCE BY BRIEFING THEM ON PRINCE FAHD VISIT AND JUNE 13 TREATY WITH IRAN.

5. COMMENT: SUCCESS OF NEW IRAQI EFFORT TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE GULF STATES THROUGH COOPERATION IS LIKELY TO HINGE ON SUCCESS OF RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA, SETTLEMENT OF BORDER PROBLEM WITH KUWAIT, AND POSITION ON DHOFAR WAR. SAUDI AMBASSADOR AL-SUGAIR HAS BEEN UNCOMMUNICATIVE ABOUT FAHD VISIT, BUT HE HAS SAID THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT NOW CONVINCED THAT BAS C CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN IRAQ'S POLICY TOWARD ARAB MONARCHIES. IT WILL HOWEVER PROCEED WITH CAUTION. LITTLE PROGRESS THUS FAR ACHIEVED ON KUWAITI BORDER DEMARCATION, BUT THIS MAY WELL BE DUE TO GOI CONCENTRATION DURING PAST THREE MONTHS ON COMPLEX BORDER NEGOTIATING WITH IRAN. I HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFO ON IRAQI SUPPORT FOR DHOFAR WAR, BUT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AL-NAGGAR CLAIMS THAT IRAQ CEASED ALL ASSISTANCE TO DHOFAR REBELS ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO AND ITS RELATIONS WITH PDYR ARE STRAINED.

6. IRAQ'S CONFLICT WITH SYRIA HAS GIVEN FURTHER IMPETUS TO NEW GULF POLICY IN SAME WAY THAT CONFLICT WITH IRAN AND KURDS TURNED GOI INTO CHAMPION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. MOST ARAB AMBASSADORS HERE SEEM TO BELIEVE IRAQ HAS PRESENTED BETTER CASE THAN SYRIANS AND GOI NO DOUBT HOPES THAT GULF STATES' CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBSIDIES TO SYRIA WILL GIVE THEM INFLUENCE WITH SYRIA THAT WILL REDOUND TO IRAQ'S BENEFIT.
LOWRIE

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